

First and foremost, there is simply no need to proceed with this sale. Turkey is already the most militarized state in that region, and it has the second largest army in NATO after the United States. Despite these facts, Turkey plans to spend \$150 billion over the next 25 to 30 years on military weapons; and it plans to implement the first \$31 billion phase in the next 10 years. This money could be better used to build schools, hospitals, or housing for the victims of last year's destructive earthquake. Mr. Speaker, the list is endless.

Previous experience leaves no room for any optimism regarding legitimate use of such weaponry by Turkey. Quite the contrary, the record shows that the Turkish military has consistently failed to distinguish between civilian and military targets. For the last 16 years, the Turkish military has been using American weaponry, most notably attack helicopters, to kill more than 30,000 civilians, destroy over 2,000 ethnic Kurdish villages and displace more than 2½ million ethnic Kurds.

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The Turkish military has misused its equipment even though its government has signed numerous international agreements guaranteeing freedom of religion and human rights. Recently, Turkey used an American COBRA attack helicopter in its campaign against the Kurds in southeast Turkey, in direct violation of the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Military Sales Agreement which Turkey signed with the United States.

Despite its repeated pledges and promises to make improvements, Turkey's record of human rights violations remains dismal. In a December 1997 meeting with U.S. officials, Turkish diplomats pledged to meet certain benchmarks for improving human rights in Turkey. In subsequent meetings, U.S. officials pledged to oppose the sale of U.S. attack helicopters or other military equipment to Turkey unless the Turkish government met these standards.

And to what degree did Turkey honor its promises? According to the State Department's 1999 Country Report on Human Rights, Turkey has failed to meet any of the benchmarks set forth by the administration. How can we allow this sale to proceed when Turkey has repeatedly failed to live up to its promises? Our Nation risks a loss of credibility in permitting this sale while repeatedly proclaiming our commitment to respect and promote human rights and our opposition to Turkey's violations.

Other countries have refused to sell Turkey weapons because of its human rights records. According to a report by Reuters on September 8, 2000, Germany's ruling Social Democrats said their government would veto a \$7.1 billion order to supply Turkey with 1,000 tanks because of Turkey's human rights violations. If Germany is willing

to forego a lucrative arms deal based on these concerns, why should we feel any differently? Is our Nation any less committed to protecting human rights? Are our principles more "flexible" when a significant dollar amount is involved? I would hope not.

Mr. Speaker, some values transcend geopolitical barriers, and respect for human rights is one of them. People around the world look to the United States for leadership and guidance precisely because of our strict adherence to such principles. The proposed arms sale to Turkey, viewed in the light of its past record on human rights, is contrary to the values we espouse, harmful to our image abroad, and threatens the security of a strategically important region.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge Members to join me in opposing this arms deal and in calling for its immediate cancellation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have long been concerned about the level of U.S. military aid and arms sales to Turkey. On average, the U.S. provides Turkey with more than \$1 billion each year in direct military assistance and training and commercial arms exports. There are more particular reasons, however, for why I am opposed to the recently announced agreement for Turkey to purchase 145 attack helicopters worth \$4.5 billion from U.S. arms manufacturers. Nothing could be more destructive to the efforts by the U.S. and the international community to bring peace and stability to the eastern Mediterranean region than this major arms purchase by Turkey.

Human rights organizations inside and outside of Turkey have documented that Turkey has used American Cobra attack helicopters in its campaign against the Kurdish people in southeast Turkey. The Turkish military consistently fail to distinguish between civilian and military targets. For the past 16 years, the Turkish military has used American weaponry and especially attack helicopters to kill over 30,000 civilian non-combatants, destroy over 2,000 ethnic Kurdish villages, and displace over 2.5 million ethnic Kurds. In its "Report 2000," Amnesty International states that the practice of torture has actually increased in the past year.

At a time when the world hopes for a breakthrough in negotiations on Cyprus, the U.S. approves a massive military sale to Turkey. At a time when the world is attempting to lessen the attacks and repressive actions taken against the Kurdish minority by the Turkish government, the U.S. approves a massive military sale to Turkey.

Why is the Administration allowing this commercial sale to go forward? Turkey is already the most militarized state in the Mediterranean. It possesses vast military superiority over all its neighbors. There is no need to increase its military arsenal.

Rather than spending \$4.5 billion on the purchase of attack helicopters, the Government of Turkey might better target those funds toward rebuilding the communities ravaged by earthquakes, building more schools and health clinics, and addressing other basic economic needs of its people.

I urge the Administration to revoke this export license and move away from the long-standing policy of militarizing Turkey—a policy

supported by Republican and Democratic Administrations alike. What might have once made sense during the Cold War is now counter-productive to efforts to demilitarize the region.

The pursuit of regional peace and stability and respect for basic human rights are not helped by arms sales.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TANCREDO). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MINK of Hawaii addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING WHITNEY M. YOUNG AS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, as the debate continues around the issues of vouchers, charter schools, and what some call alternatives to traditional public education, I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Whitney M. Young Public High School in Chicago, Illinois, which has the distinction of being hailed number one in the Nation in college preparatory education.

For 15 years, the Whitney M. Young magnet school has been number one in the State of Illinois. This year, the year 2000, it leads the United States in the numbers of its students who qualified as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition for outstanding black students. Twenty seniors put Whitney M. Young on the top of the list as a result of their ranking in the top 2 percent of youngsters in competition.

Graduates of Young go on to college at the astronomical rate of 96 percent, with the University of Illinois enrolling more than any other college or university. Princeton, Harvard, Stanford, Yale and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology lead other schools in enrollment of Whitney Young alumni.

Mr. Speaker, Principal Joyce Kenner, her staff, local school council, parents, and the students themselves are to be commended for proving, and for proving conclusively, that a student does not have to have a voucher or go to a private or charter school to achieve, and indeed to excel academically.

So, Mr. Speaker, a school located in the inner city of Chicago, with a diverse student population, 50 percent of whom are black, leads the Nation in the number of its students who qualified as semi-finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Competition for outstanding students. So just as Whitney Young practiced excellence in his life and work, the Whitney M. Young High